



Testimony in Support of H.B. 6659

Appropriations Committee, February 23, 2023
Submitted by Brian Snyder, Parent Ambassador, Central Village, CT

Senator Osten, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Brian Snyder. My community is part of the Northeast Early Childhood Council. We are a regional council covering the rural towns of Brooklyn, Canterbury, Killingly, Plainfield, Putnam, Sterling, and Thompson.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of **House Bill 6659**. Our children are counting on you to add \$1 million to the Office of Early Childhood budget to continue funding Connecticut's local early childhood collaboratives.

These collaboratives provide essential infrastructure, parent ambassadors, and core staffing to provide vital resources and services at the local level for our children. We ask that this be increased to \$2 million in F.Y. 25 to allow us to expand by creating 24 new collaboratives, especially regional ones in rural parts of the state so that every town benefits from local coordination.

I have found NECC to be very useful. They have information and resources available for families and my own, including mental health, schools, and expected behavior.

- They provided me with contact information for an app (Sparkler) that helps track all of the above, including live coaches, ages and stages, and age-appropriate activities.
- Made me aware of the Read to Grow program
- Provided medical resources
- NECC is involved with various outreach events throughout the area, such as NOW and other outdoor activities
- I have seen that if someone is in need, they will help no matter what area the person lives in.
- NECC is involved with PEP, People Empowering People program. A program that I graduated from and found to be an excellent program
- If I ever have a question or problem, I can have an answer promptly.
- They actively participate in the school readiness program, ensuring kids are enrolled and socially and emotionally ready. As a single parent, I wish I had known about it when I was preparing my child for enrollment in school
- Their social media reach is enormous.

This council is a valuable asset to the area and communities they serve due to being in the Northeast corner of the state and the rural nature of the area where services are not as widely available as in other parts of the state.

Thank you for your leadership, Brian Snyder